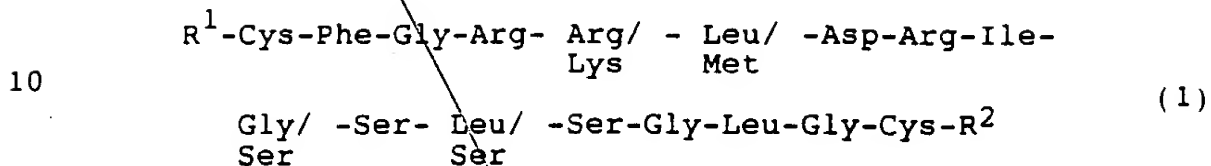


Claims

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1. A peptide having natriuretic activity of the formula:



wherein R^1 is selected from the group consisting of:

15 (H);

Gly-;

Ser-Gly-;

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Asp/
Lys/ -Ser-Gly-;
Gly

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Arg/ Asp/
His/ Lys/ -Ser-Gly-;
Gln Gly

Met/ Arg/ Asp/
Val - His/ - Lys/ -Ser-Gly-;
Gln Gly

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Thr/ - Met/ Arg/ Asp/
Met Val - His/ - Lys/ -Ser-Gly-;
Gln Gly

Lys- Thr/ - Met/ Arg/ Asp/
Met Val - His/ - Lys/ -Ser-Gly-;
Gln Gly

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Pro-Lys- Thr/ - Met/ Arg/ Asp/
Met Val - His/ - Lys/ -Ser-Gly-;
Gln Gly

Ser-Pro-Lys- Thr/ - Met/ - Arg/ Asp/
Met Val Gln Gly -Ser-Gly-;

5 or a 10- to 109-amino acid sequence shown as the native upstream sequence for porcine, canine or human BNP in Figure 8, or a composite thereof;

R^2 is (OH), NH_2 , or $NR'R''$ wherein R' and R'' are independently lower alkyl (1-4C) or is

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Asn/
Lys

Asn/ -Val
Lys

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Asn/ -Val-Leu
Lys

Asn/ -Val-Leu-Arg
Lys

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Asn/ -Val-Leu-Arg- Arg/
Lys Lys

Asn/ -Val-Leu-Arg- Arg/ - Tyr/
Lys Lys His

or the amides (NH_2 or $NR'R''$) thereof,
with the proviso that if formula (1) is

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R^1 -Cys-Phe-Gly-Arg-Arg-Leu-Asp-Arg-
Ile-Gly-Ser-Leu-Ser-Gly-Leu-Gly-Cys- R^2

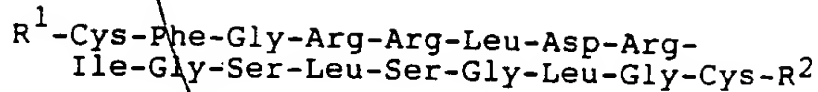
and R^1 is Asp-Ser-Gly-, R^2 cannot be Asn-Val-Leu-Arg-Arg-Tyr.

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2. A peptide having natriuretic activity which is a modified form of the peptide of claim 1, having conservative amino acid substitutions in one or two positions.

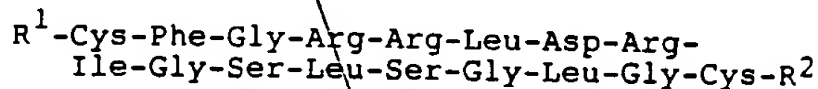
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3. The peptide of claim 1 having the formula:

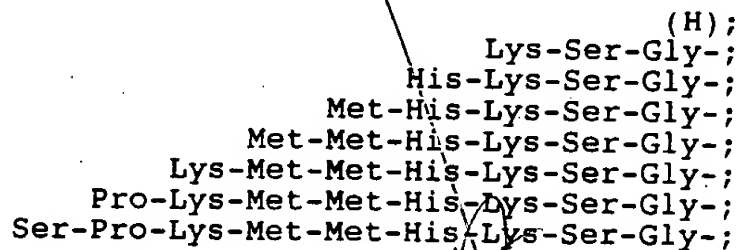


wherein R^1 is selected from Thr-Met-Arg-Asp-Ser-Gly; Ser-Pro-Lys-Thr-Met-Arg-Asp-Ser-Gly; and Gly-Ile-Arg-Ser-Pro-Lys-Thr-Met-Arg-Asp-Ser-Gly; and the 10- to 108-amino acid upstream sequence shown for porcine prepro-BNP in Figure 8.

4. The peptide of claim 1 having the formula

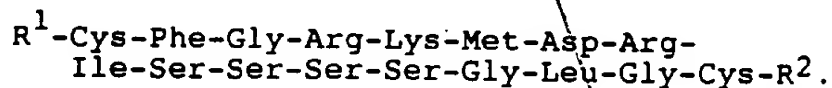


wherein R^1 is selected from

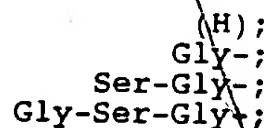


and the 10- to 109-amino acid sequence shown for canine BNP in Figure 8.

5. The peptide of claim 1 having the formula



6. The peptide of claim 5 wherein R^1 is selected from



Gln-Gly-Ser-Gly-;
Val-Gln-Gly-Ser-Gly-;
Met-Val-Gln-Gly-Ser-Gly-;
Lys-Met-Val-Gln-Gly-Ser-Gly-;
Pro-Lys-Met-Val-Gln-Gly-Ser-Gly-;
Ser-Pro-Lys-Met-Met-His-Lys-Ser-Gly-;

and the 10- to 109-amino acid sequence shown for human BNP
in Figure 8.

7. A recombinant DNA in isolated form consisting
essentially of a DNA which encodes the peptide of claim 1.

8. A recombinant expression system capable, when
contained in a recombinant host cell, of expressing the DNA
encoding the peptide of claim 1.

9. A recombinant host cell or cell culture which
has been manipulated so as to contain the expression system
of claim 8.

10. A method to produce a peptide having
natriuretic activity, which method comprises:
culturing the cells of claim 9 under conditions
which permit the expression of the DNA encoding said
peptide; and
recovering the peptide from the culture.

11. A pharmaceutical composition useful in
treating conditions associated with a high level of
extracellular fluid which composition comprises an effec-
tive amount of the peptide of claim 1 in admixture with a
suitable pharmaceutical excipient.

12. A method to treat a condition characterized
by a high level of extracellular fluid which comprises
administering to a subject in need of treatment an effec-

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directly with the probe of claim 17 at 42°C in buffer
containing 20% formamide, 5 x Denhardt's, 6 x SSC, 100 mg/
ml RNA, 0.05% Na pyrophosphate, followed by washing at 60°C
at 1 x SSC, 0.1% SDS,

with the proviso that said peptide is not pBNP.

20. A DNA sequence which comprises a segment of
contiguous or non-contiguous portions of the cDNA of Figure
1, which segment encodes a brain natriuretic peptide having
natriuretic activity.

21. The DNA of claim 20 wherein the segment
encodes pBNP.

22. The DNA of claim 20 wherein the segment
encodes the peptide sequence Thr-Met-Arg-pBNP.

23. The DNA of claim 20 wherein the segment
encodes the peptide sequence Ser-Pro-Lys-Thr-Met-Arg-pBNP.

24. The DNA of claim 20 wherein the segment
encodes the peptide sequence Gly-Ile-Arg-Ser-Pro-Lys-Thr-
Met-Arg-pBNP.

25. A DNA sequence which comprises a modified
segment of contiguous or non-contiguous portions of the
cDNA of Figure 1 wherein said modified segment encodes a
BNP having one or two conservative amino acid substitu-
tions.

26. A recombinant expression system which
comprises the segment of claim 20 operably linked to
control sequences functional in a recombinant host.

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add A^2)

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